

UNITED STATES ARMY  
MILITARY POLICE SCHOOL  
FORT GORDON, GEORGIA 30905  
15 December 1972

Corrections in the Volunteer Army

A Staff Study  
presented in partial  
fulfillment for the requirements  
for MPOA 1973.

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15 December 1972

Subject: Corrections in the Volunteer Army

I. PROBLEM. To determine if the philosophy of corrections should be changed in an All Volunteer Army.

II. ASSUMPTIONS.

A. The volunteer army concept will remain unchanged.

B. The caliber of troops will remain basically the same, i.e., age, education, background, moral convictions, etc.

III. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM.

A. Definitions:

1. "Correction" is defined as the act of correcting; punishment; chastisement; critical notice; the counteraction of what is inconvenient or hurtful in its effects. "House of correction"-- a house where disorderly persons are confined. (Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary, 1967)

2. "Army confinement facility" is a term applying to the United States Disciplinary Barracks, branch disciplinary barracks, correctional training facilities, stockades, and hospital prisoner wards. (Para 2, AR 190-1)

3. "Federal institution" is a penal or correctional institution placed under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General of the United States. (Para 1-2, c-4 AR 190-4)

4. "All Volunteer Army" is the United States Army made up strictly of volunteers without a draft system.

B. The mission of organizations assigned to operate Army confinement or correctional facilities is to provide the custodial supervision, correctional treatment, and the training necessary to return military prisoners to duty with improved attitudes and motivation. (Para 4, AR 190-2)

C. The basic objective of the United States Army in the entire confinement and correctional treatment field is to minimize time, money, and the waste of human resources. (Sec II, FM 19-60)

D. The specific objectives are as follows:

1. To return to duty the maximum number of military prisoners who are considered properly motivated.
2. To prepare prisoners for either return to duty or discharge to civilian life with programs of correction, training, and rehabilitation.
3. To identify those prisoners who do not respond, and transfer them to federal civilian confinement or release them from service. (Para 5, AR 190-1)

#### IV. DISCUSSION

A. Advantages of the present philosophy: (Annex, Para IA)

1. To remove those who could not conform to the society's (Army) rules.
2. To reduce delinquency (ommission of duty, fault, or missdeed) through problem solving.
3. To prepare the prisoner for the society to which he will return, whether military or civilian.
4. The maximum return of military prisoners to duty.
5. To return prisoners, whose sentence includes punitive discharge, to civilian life as responsible individuals.
6. To identify the hardened prisoner and separate or transfer him to the federal system.
7. The United States Army Correctional Training Facility (CTF) has been selecting retrainable prisoners who are returned to duty after completion of the course.

B. Disadvantages to the present philosophy: (Annex, Para IB)

1. The high recidivic rate tends to disprove the theory that military confinement corrects behavior.

2. The cost in manpower and money compared to the end product should be considered.
3. The high cost to run the CTF program that results in a 44 percent waste product.
4. The shortage of qualified 95C MOS and funds to run a treatment facility results in falling short of the goal of AR 190-1 -- solve their problem and correct their behavior.
5. The probation system falls short because of the lack of personal attention available in the offenders unit.

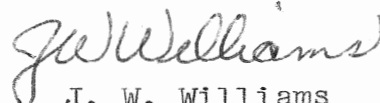
C. Comparison of advantages and disadvantages. (Annex, Para II) The present correctional philosophy has proven itself in the past; but with the ending of the war in Viet Nam and the implementation of the All Volunteer Army, a new approach is needed.

D. For details, see Annex, Detailed Discussion.

V. CONCLUSION. It is desirable to make some changes to the Army correctional philosophy.

VI. ACTION RECOMMENDED.

- A. That the Correctional Training Facility at Fort Riley, Kansas, be closed.
- B. That prompt identification be made of offenders of minor charges as to their ability to respond to military discipline. Those with attitudes and/or records that indicate anything but the highest intentions should be immediately released from the service.
- C. That the following categories of prisoners be held in post stockades: detained, casual, sentenced (30 days or less).
- D. That all other categories of prisoners sentenced over 30 days be dismissed from the service and transferred to a single confinement facility at Army level or sent to federal prison.



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ANNEX - Detailed Discussion

## DETAILED DISCUSSION (Annex)

### I. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THE PRESENT CORRECTIONAL PHILOSOPHY.

#### A. Advantages of the present philosophy:

1. The purpose of corrections is to keep prisoners in custody. Those who can not conform to the rules and laws of the society (in this case the Army) are then removed from that society. A man is deprived of his freedom by the courts and laws for committing certain offenses. This man's punishment is his loss of freedom for committing these offenses. But, if this loss of freedom is to serve any useful purpose other than merely removing the man from society, the time he spends in custody must be spent helping him.

2. The second purpose is to reduce delinquency through problem solving. Delinquency (neglecting or violating duty or law) is normally the result of problems and misguided efforts to solve them. The most common offense (80-90%) committed in the Army is "absent without leave." ("The Study of the United States Confinement System" Washington D. C. 1970, p. 26) In the vast majority of the cases of AWOL, the man does not go AWOL because he wants to. There is almost always some problem that the man feels he can solve by running away from the Army or by going to the source of the problem. This concept can be held for other offenses as well. Few people commit crimes for pleasure, but as a way of overcoming some problem. There is little chance to reduce the prisoner's delinquency while confined, if no effort is made to help him solve his problems. We end up releasing the same man we confined.

3. The third purpose appears after the problem-solving process is initiated. This is to acclimate the prisoner to the society of which he will return, whether it be military or civilian. Rather than turning out "model prisoners" through harsh regimentation, our goal should be aimed at turning out a well-motivated soldier ready to accept the responsibility and standards of conduct of the society, to which he will return.

4. The first of three objectives in the Army correctional program, as called for in AR 190-1, is returning to duty the "maximum possible number of military

prisoners" as responsible, well trained soldiers that have improved their attitudes and motivation toward themselves, the army, and the nation. This does not include those prisoners whose sentence is any type of punitive discharge. Unless the courts have imposed a punitive discharge, every man is considered to have the potential for returning to duty. Needless to say, confinement must seek to improve his attitudes and motivations before returning him.

5. The second objective is to return prisoners, whose sentence includes punitive discharge, to civilian life as morally responsible and well trained individuals with improved attitudes and motivations who are capable of assuming responsibilities associated with their return to civilian life.

6. The third objective is to promptly identify and expeditiously release from Army confinement facilities, through separation from the service or transfer to the federal correctional system, those prisoners who do not respond or are incapable of effectively responding to army correctional treatment, discipline, or retraining. AR 190-1 recognizes the fact that some men, due to their psychological make-up just will not accept authority or discipline in any manner. These prisoners can not be helped because of their unwillingness to accept help, and are a waste of the Army's time, money, and manpower.

7. The United States Army Correctional Training Facility (CTF) located at Fort Riley, Kansas, is a bold, new concept in the Army's correctional field. Its mission is to return military offenders to duty as competent soldiers with the motivation, fundamentals, and maturity necessary to perform their duty assignment as a productive member of the Army. Out of a sample of 10,762 prisoners taken in 1970, 9,011 completed the CTF program and returned to duty. Of these, 10 percent were returned to confinement, 18 percent went AWOL (DFR), and 16 percent were discharged under less than honorable conditions. This comes to 44 percent or 3,903 of 9,011 that resulted in less than honorable status.

B. Disadvantages to the present philosophy:

1. AR 190-1 states that Army confinement facilities will be operated on a corrective rather than punitive bases. While the high rate of recidivism tends to

fortify the position that prisoners are not "corrected" during their stay in confinement.

2. AR 190-1 further states that military prisoners will be treated in accordance with their individual needs, with views slanted towards solving their problems and correcting their behavior. The cost in terms of manpower and money compared to the end product should be considered.

3. The cost for one CTF prisoner to finish the course is \$500. For the random study presented, 3,903 men were wasted products at \$500 apiece which comes to \$1,851,500. Expand this 44 percent rate of wasted product to cover the 15,756 prisoners received at CTF during the fiscal year 1969 and 1970, and it comes to 6,933 prisoners or \$3,466,500 plus \$2,905,000 for operating expenses (not including military pay) for the two year period gives a total of \$6,371,500 wasted. With the volunteer army concept in full swing and the Armed Forces in the process of cutting back on size, it seems the whole objective of CTF and part of the Army's correctional doctrine needs revamping.

4. The problem-solving process of confinement finds difficulty with the large amount of individual attention required; the shortage of qualified 95C MOS personnel; and the time it would require per prisoner. Results -- the well meaning objectives and goals of corrections can not be carried out to its fullest extent.

5. The probation system of putting offenders on suspended sentence or men fresh from a CTF-type environment back into a duty roll has some inherent problems. This young offender needs individualized treatment and leadership on a 24 hour basis if possible. This, however, is not possible if he is sent back to a unit to be lost among a company of 150 other men. The company cadre and commander can not be expected to spend enough time with this individual when there are 150 other non-offenders to worry about, not to mention all the other tasks required in fulfilling the mission of the unit. Also, the unit cadre are not trained in correctional treatment and do not understand the special problems of the young offender.

## II. COMPARISON OF ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

A. Advantages. The present correctional philosophy has proven itself, in the past, to be a good one. It has remained flexible, with minor changes as necessary, to keep it abreast of our constantly changing society and usually ahead of contemporary corrections in the civilian environment.

B. Disadvantages. In spite of the worth of the present system, the rapid changes in our Armed Forces as the Viet Nam War winds down; and with the change-over to an all volunteer force, a major overhaul of the entire correctional system will be desirable.

C. The information examined and presented in this study points out the need for changes in the United States Army correctional philosophy.



## LIST OF REFERENCES

AR 190-1

AR 190-2

AR 190-4

AR 190-19

FM 19-60, section II

Manual for Courts-Martial, paragraph 88e, page 17-9.

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